

THE FASTNETT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.—The last portion (the dome) of this immense structure left the foundry of Messrs. John and Robert Mallett, on its way from this city (Dublin) to the Rock, for erection, this present week. Its engineer and designer is Mr. George Halpin, C.E., of the Ballast Corporation, under which body it was contracted for. The whole shell is of iron. The tower, above 25 feet diameter at base, and above 80 feet in height to gallery floor, is composed of plates of cast iron of nearly 1½ inch in thickness, flanged-jointed, all exactly jointed by the planing-machine, and bolted together. This great conical tower is surmounted by a bold projecting cornice and gallery, above which the tower again rises some feet. The whole structure internally is lined with brickwork and masonry, the floors of stone, and the staircases, from loft to loft, of cast iron. Through the centre descends a hollow column of cast iron, to allow the movement of the great weight which is to keep the revolving light in motion. The whole is bolted down at base to the solid rock, and further steadied by being filled up solid to some height with masonry. As absolutely an Irish work—designed by an Irish engineer, and executed (without the alteration of a line from the original contract designs) by an Irish firm, and by native workmen erected on the most southerly spot of Irish land—it is likely to stand for ages an object justly of some national pride.—*Inspector.*

GUARDIANS AND CLERKS OF WORKS.—A meeting of the Devonport Guardians was held last week to appoint a clerk of the works for the new workhouse. One named by the architect was recommended by the workhouse committee. Some of the guardians said they thought it very undesirable to appoint as clerk of the works an individual nominated by the architect and proposed another person, who was elected. Do the Devonport Guardians (and others who have followed the same course) see, that by interfering thus, they relieve the architect from responsibility?—A report from the architect of the new workhouse at Bradford to the guardians last week (asking money for the contractors) contained the curious remark, correlative of what we have just now said, that "the clerk of the works was well pleased with the character of the work!"

EXPENSE OF THE MANCHESTER WATER WORKS.—In our recent notice of these works, we purposely avoided giving the benefit of our circulation to a charge made against the borough engineer, Mr. Bateman, by one of the aldermen, of having increased the expense of the works to upwards of a hundred thousand pounds above the estimate, thereby greatly increasing the amount of his commission or percentage on the works beyond the limits of the borough. This charge we took no notice of, as it clearly involved at least one vital error on the face of it. The engineer has since made a statement, which sets the matter right in this respect, and shows that the difference arose mainly from the adoption, by the corporation itself, and not by him, of a scheme for obtaining 30,000,000 gallons of water a day, at a cost of £55,300L, instead of one for obtaining only 15,000,000 gallons, at a cost of 915,000L. The motive which chiefly actuated the corporation in doing so seems to have been the prospect which they thus have of profiting by the supply of some neighbouring towns.

A HUNT FOR THE "BEAUTIES OF ENGLAND" IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—The *Gentleman's Magazine* gives an amusing account of a hunt after the "Beauties of England and Wales," in the British Museum. The writer says, "We began with the 79 vol. Catalogue, under the title 'England and Wales.'—It was not there; then we went to the 153 vol. Catalogue, same title—not there. We tried 'Beauties' in both catalogues; we found 'Beauties of the Opera and Ballet,' but none of England and Wales, and under 'Beauty' there was 'Universal Beauty,' but not the coy shy object of our search. Here we paused to survey the ground, and meditate upon our future course. Knowing a little of the history of the book, we made a dash at 'Briton, John,' the chief editor and principal author, whose name is on the title-page of we know not how many volumes." Every thing friend John had done was found, except what was wanted. "Brayley, E. W.," afforded no better success,

and then the searcher tried after all the contributors whose names he could recollect, but with no good result. Accident, however, led him to A, and "we thank our stars we did so (says he), for there it was and there it is: 'Anglia. The Beauties of England and Wales; topographical, historical, and descriptive; 18 vols. [in 23] 8vo. Lond. 1801-15.' We give the full particulars, to save anybody else such a weary day's work as we had, and hope it will never be our fate to go upon such a search again."

OFFICE OF WOODS AND WORKS.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint, by letters patent, Edward Adolphus Seymour, Esq. (commonly called Lord Seymour), Charles Alexander Gore, Esq., and the Right Hon. Thomas Francis Kennedy, to be Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and Land Revenues, &c.—*Tuesday's Gazette*—which also contains the following "memorandum":—"The appointment of Edward Adolphus Seymour, Esq. (commonly called Lord Seymour), as Chief Commissioner of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, &c., was omitted to be inserted in the *London Gazette* of the 17th of April, 1849."

BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES IN ST. MARGARET'S AND ST. JOHN'S, WESTMINSTER.—The vestry and parochial authorities of the united parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, have now in the course of erection, and which is nearly completed, a spacious building, situated in Pye-street, near Peter-street, Westminster, which will be appropriated to baths and wash-houses on a very extensive scale. The area will contain two plunging-baths of between 40 and 50 feet in length, and of a depth varying from 3½ feet at the sides to 5 feet in the centre. There will be above fifty bunks for men and women, with accommodation for washing and ironing linen. The cost of the structure, including the purchase of the ground, for which 3,000L was given, will be nearly 14,000L.

SOUNDING BOARDS FOR PULPITS.—I would suggest to the architects of sacred edifices, that the canopies of pulpits should be formed of *strained sheepskin*, and inserted into a wooden frame (the skin to be painted to imitate the grain of the wood) and then suspended from the ceiling. By the adoption of this improvement, a great increase of reverberation may be acquired, and the voice of the preacher would be heard distinctly in the remotest part of the church or chapel, without exhausting physical power.—*FREDERICK WEBSTER.*

EXTINGUISHING FIRES.—On Monday last Dr. Robinson, of London, exhibited his apparatus for giving alarm in cases of fire and making the fire the means of extinguishing itself. Strings rendered inflammable by being steeped in spirits of wine were placed in communication with a cylinder containing hydrochloric acid, which, as soon as the string is burned through, discharges itself into a vessel beneath in which carbonate of lime is laid, and thus carbonic acid gas is generated and the flames extinguished.—*Carlisle Journal.*

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, HOLLOWAY.—I perused your remarks on this church with very great pleasure, as I concur most heartily in all you have said of it, but, at the same time, I feel it a duty incumbent on me to vindicate the architectural taste both of my fellow parishioners and myself, which you have called in question. I can assure you, Sir, that the residents of Holloway generally have quite as strong a sense of the ugliness of the building now in course of erection as yourself: they are fully sensible of its unworthiness for the holy purpose to which it is to be dedicated. The most superficial observer cannot fail to be impressed with astonishment, that, in this age of enlightenment, when the arts are so highly cultivated, and church architecture especially studied, a structure of this description should be reared, which must be a lasting disgrace to those concerned in its erection. For myself, I am filled with indignation, when I reflect that such an amount of discredit should be brought on a whole parish by the hole and corner doings of some half-dozen individuals. I hope, Sir, you will not condemn the many for the few. The insertion of these few remarks in your valuable publication will much oblige

A RESIDENT IN THE PARISH.

* Professor of Oratory to the Royal Academy of Music.

WIDENING OF CHANCERY-LANE.—We earnestly trust that the apathy displayed on a late occasion in allowing several of the Middle-row houses in Holborn to be rebuilt will not now re-appear in that immediate vicinity, where the narrow head of Chancery-lane constitutes a serious aggravation to the adjoining Middle-row nuisance: let us, at least, have one of these obstructions unimpeded. The parochial authorities have so far done their duty, but, as a last resource, if nothing else will do, let them empanel a jury under the Metropolitan Improvement Act to assess the proper compensation; and as for the payment of it, there is more than one source of assistance that ought to be available. The Woods and Forests,* the Society of Lincoln's-Inn, the ground-landlord—Lord Radnor, and the public, ought all to pay their respective shares of the requisite compensation. Now, more than ever, the widening of this omnibus and general thoroughfare is requisite, as the opening of the Great Northern Railway has already increased the traffic considerably, and the projected new Record-office with the new street through the Rolls estate, &c., will still further extend it. Indeed, within a few years, the traffic of this lane has increased tenfold, so that the sooner it is widened into a street the better.

LONDON WELLS.—In reply to an inquirer, the deepest well in London is that sunk by Messrs. Coombe and Co., the brewers, which measures 522 feet. The next is at the Excise Office, 500 feet. The well at Messrs. brewery is 425 feet deep; that at Messrs. Elliott's, Pimlico, 395 feet. The Trafalgar-square well is 383 feet deep, and the well at Kensington new workhouse 370 feet.†

GIGANTIC CHIMNEY AT BOSTON, U.S.—The New England Glass Company, at East Cambridge, have lately had erected a chimney 230 feet high, and tapering from 25 to 15 feet diameter. We learn from an American paper that it is octagonal in form, and built of brick on a granite base 36 feet in diameter. There is a chimney within a chimney, closing at the top, forming a central duct of 7 feet diameter. Three horizontal ducts, from the furnaces, are carried in beneath the perpendicular one, though so constructed that additional ducts, if necessary, may be added. Thus, through the one cone, all the smoke from the several furnaces will be carried, and a group of smaller ones will therefore be demolished. 500,000 bricks, and 100 cubic yards of granite, were required in the erection.

IRON WAREHOUSES.—A range of three large iron warehouses has just been erected by Messrs. Finch and Wiley, of the Windsor Foundry, under the superintendence of Mr. Grantham. They are intended for California, and will contain an immense quantity of goods. They are built in the usual manner, with frame, joists, beams, columns, and roof, all of iron; and the plates are galvanised corrugated sheets, fastened together by screw bolts.

VICTORIAN STATUE AT EDINBURGH.—The cost of the proposed statue of the Queen at Holyrood has been realised, but objections having been started to the idea of placing it in the centre of the palace quadrangle, it has been determined to place it within an ornamental area in front of the palace, and to that end Mr. Ritchie, the sculptor, has pointed out that the figure will require to be larger, as well as the pedestal, plinth, &c., so that some further funds are to be collected for these purposes, and to form the small enclosure, with shrubs, &c., in which it is to be placed. The area within the quadrangle, it appears, is laid with pipes for a fountain at one time intended to be placed there. The chief objection, however, related to the keeper's power to prevent public access to the piazza.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, CHESTER.—In taking down the altar-piece of this church, behind it was discovered a stone which fixes the period when the edifice was rebuilt. The following is the inscription on the stone:—"The east-end of this Church being ruined was Rebuilt from the foundations with the Roofs. Thomas Minshvill & Joseph Baanet. Church Warden. Anno 1679."

* A correspondent of the Times gives figures to show, that out of an income of £4,765L, the Woods and Forests expend 32,000L, &c. &c. the balance being all that can be devoted to public purposes.
† See "Sections of the London Britain," by W. R. Mylne, Weid, Strand.